

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The amendments are made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 121. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 11-18 are pending.

Claims 15-18 have been added.

It should be noted that Claims 1-9 were cancelled in the preliminary amendment filed Feb. 7, 2002.

CLAIMS

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Han (US 5,991,397) in view of Turnbull et al. (US6,008,362)
and Heep et al. (US 4,996,709)

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Han (US 5,991,397) in view of Turnbull et al. (US 6,008,362) and Heep et al. (US 4,996,709). Applicants hereby traverse the Examiners rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 11 reads as follows:

11. A multiline KSU-less telephone system for providing a paging feature, comprising :
a first telephone for selecting a group of telephones in the KSU-less system;
a half duplex channel in the system;
the first telephone initiating a voice message to the group of telephones using the half duplex voice channel in response to a user request; and the group of telephones receive and play the voice message from the first telephone automatically regardless of receiving user action and wherein anyone of said group after hearing said voice message can initiate a two-way conversation with the user of said first telephone.

The operation of the paging feature of the KSU-less telephone system claimed above is described in the specification on page 14, line 23 to page 16, line 5 as follows:

Fig. 11A illustrates the process flow of a paging telephone. At step 111, the telephone is assigned a group number in which it belongs in system 1 when the telephone is first powered up and being set up. At step 112, to initiate a group paging feature, a user of the telephone would either pick up a handset of the telephone or activate a speaker phone.

The user may then select to page all the telephones in system 1 or select a group number to page, as shown in step 114. This may be accomplished via keyboard 32 and LCD 33 of system 1 shown in Fig. 2.

Once a group is selected, microcontroller 29 of the paging telephone will then broadcast a "page on" command as shown in element 509 of Fig. 5. This command has an Operand 2, which contains the group number that this page is meant for. Once this command is sent, a go ahead beep will be sounded. After the user has heard this beep the user can then speak his or her paging message, as shown in steps 116 and 118. This paging message will be carry on the half-duplex audio voice channel carried on L2 of the system, as described in detail above. The page will end when the paging telephone is hung up by the user or will end automatically 30 seconds after the page, which ever is faster. The page is terminated when the paging unit sends a "page off" command as shown in 510 of Fig. 5.

Fig. 11B describes a receiving process of the group paging feature. At the receiving end, a telephone in the group being page will realized that it is being paged by the page on command sent, as described above. Once this command is received at a telephone belongs to the group, an alert tone will be generated to a user, as shown in step 122. The telephone will also automatically connect the half-duplex paging channel to the speakerphone of the paged telephone, so that the voice message is heard from the speaker, as in step 124. The paged telephone will also display the originating ID, which can be obtained from the page on command, on display 33 of the telephone. The user of the paged telephone after having heard the page message, may also initiate a 2-way conversation with the paging telephone by simply answering the telephone. A two way intercom is set up by the receiving telephone sending a "Intercom on command" shown in 511 of Fig 5. As discussed above, intercom communications are carried on two full-duplex voice channels by transceiver 22 of Fig. 2.

In summary, the operator of the first telephone sends a voice message (or page) via the speakerphone of each telephone of the "group of telephones." Accordingly, "the group of telephones receive and play the voice message from the first telephone automatically regardless of receiving user action and wherein anyone of said group after hearing said voice message can initiate a two-way conversation with the user of said first telephone." The Examiner relies on the passage described in column 6, lines 58 to column 7, line 9 of the Han patent for a teaching of the above emphasized claim language.

Applicants completely **disagree** with the Examiner's characterization of the Han patent for the following reasons. Han describes sending a voice message (or page) to the broadcasting unit 123 wherein broadcasting unit 123 plays the voice message, as described in column 5, lines 35-40. This is contrary to the present invention. In the present invention, "the group of telephones receive and play the voice message from the first telephone." (Emphasis added) Additionally, Han describes in column 6, lines 30-36, the broadcasting unit 123 being connected to the central line circuit 117 where a voice paging channel is established. The voice message from the caller is reproduced by the broadcasting unit 123.

The description set forth in column 6, lines 58 to column 7, line 9 of Han describes an embodiment related to the paging function when the caller *does not know the number of the desired extension subscriber or the number of an extension group to which the extension subscriber belongs.*

In the rejection, the Examiner relies on the description in column 6, lines 46-49 of Han for selecting a group of telephones. In the embodiment described therein, the caller knew the extension or group extension and enters such information. By contrast, the embodiment described in column 6, line 58 to column 7, line 9 of Han is

for an embodiment in which the caller does not know the extension and therefore **does not** describe (1) first telephone for selecting a group of telephones; (2) the first telephone initiating a voice message to the group of telephones using the half duplex voice channel in response to a user request; and (3) the group of telephones receive and play the voice message from the first telephone automatically regardless of receiving user action. (Emphasis added).

Furthermore, the broadcasting unit 123 of the Han patent **is not** shown or described as connected to the subscriber circuit 115 of Han, such subscriber circuit 115 having the telephone or subscribers connected thereto. Instead, the broadcasting unit 123 is connected to the switching circuit 114, as best seen in FIG.1, via a voice paging channel to the central line circuit 117 and to the voice processing unit 121 (column 5, lines 20-25).

The embodiment shown in FIG. 1 of Han is of a switching system having an automatic attendant function (column 3, lines 9-12) such as for private exchange and key telephone systems (column 1, lines 20-21). As is well known, attendants, whether automated or not, send out over an intercom system (which is not generally embedded in the phones but speakers distributed throughout an office) a page to an employee or subscriber that is away from their telephone. Han does not describe in any significant detail the operation of the telephone or subscriber circuit 115 in relation to the broadcasting unit 123. The page is not described as being sent to any of the telephones.

Since the Examiner's rejection is not completely clear as to which element in Han is being read on the "first telephone," the following remarks are pertinent. With regard to the extension subscriber (NOT SHOWN) coupled to the central office line circuit 117, such extension subscriber is **not described** as part of the "system" of the

Han patent. The telephones claimed in Claim 11 are part of the KSU-less system. Applicants acknowledge that the caller from the extension subscriber can enter a message, however, Han does not describe “*the group of telephones receive and play the voice message from the first telephone automatically regardless of receiving user action.*”

In summary, Han **does not** describe (1) a first telephone for selecting a group of telephones in the KSU-less system; (2) the first telephone initiating a voice message to the group of telephones using the half duplex voice channel in response to a user request; and (3) the group of telephones receive and play the voice message from the first telephone automatically regardless of receiving user action. (Emphasis added)

The Examiner acknowledges that Han does not teach a KSU-less system and a half-duplex channel for communications, as claimed. Therefore, the Examiner relies upon the Turnbull patent ‘362 for the teaching of a KSU-less system. However, although Turnbull does teach a KSU-less system having intercom capability, Turnbull **does not** teach for describe (1) a first telephone for selecting a group of telephones in the KSU-less system; and (2) the first telephone initiating a voice message to the group of telephones using the half duplex voice channel in response to a user request. (Emphasis added) More specifically, the intercom capability is described as taking place between stations 14 one being a master 70 and the other a slave 71.

The Examiner relies on the Heep patent for a teaching of half-duplex or full-duplex features. However, in view of the foregoing remarks regarding the Han patent, the combination of Han in view of Turnbull and Heep **does not** teach all the claim limitations, as asserted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Claim 11 is allowable over the prior art of record and the rejection under 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Since Claims 12-14 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 11, then for the reasons set forth above regard the Allowability of Claim 11, such claims are also allowable over the prior art of record. Additionally, the combination of Han in view of Turnbull and Heep do not teach the limitations claimed in the dependent claims. For example, with regard to Claim 12, the display 58 of the Turnbull et al. patent '362 is not described as displaying an identification number of the first telephone. Also, with regard to Claim 13, the Examiner acknowledges that the combination does not teach "the voice message is automatically terminated at a predetermined period."

Regarding new Claims 15-18, Claims 15-18 contain similar limitations to Claims 11-14. Thus, for the reasons set forth above regard the Allowability of Claim 11-14, such claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, the Applicant believes that they have overcome all of the examiner's basis for rejection, and that this application therefore stands in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner is of the opinion that such action can not be taken, the Applicant requests that he contact the undersigned attorney in order to resolve any outstanding issues without the necessity of issuing another Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Liao, Esq.
609-734-6821
Reg. No. 40,065

Dated: September 9, 2002
Thomson multimedia Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that on September 9, 2002, I caused the Amendment for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/306,038 be mailed by first class mail to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

David A. Fornalotto